

FROM:
DEPARTMENT OF FIRE AND SAFETY SERVICES
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DIVISION OF FIRE PREVENTION
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CODE ENFORCEMENT POLICY #5-9

September 28, 2004

TO: All Inspection Staff

FROM: Steve Zaccard, Fire Marshal

SUBJECT: PANIC HARDWARE FOR CHURCHES & HISTORIC BUILDINGS

CODE REFERENCE: 2003 Minnesota State Fire Code Section 1003.3.1.8 (2)

"THIS POLICY IS TO SERVE AS A GUIDE FOR YOUR ENFORCEMENT. EXCEPTIONS TO THIS POLICY SHALL BE APPROVED BY THE FIRE MARSHAL THROUGH YOUR SUPERVISOR."

Panic hardware will not be required on exit doors of churches and historic buildings unless, as determined by the Fire Marshal, its absence constitutes a distinct hazard. Inspector must gather all of the pertinent data on the property such as :

1. Occupant load.
2. Number of units of exit width required.
3. Number of units of exit width available.
4. Travel distance to exits.
5. Other pertinent information.

In questionable cases this information must be submitted for determination to the Fire Marshal through your supervisor.

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